

Public Information Meeting #1

Public Information Meeting

for the

ILLINOIS ROUTE 29 STUDY Illinois Route 6 to Interstate 180

When?

Wednesday, June 11, 2003
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 12, 2003
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where?

Henry-Senachwine High
School
1023 College St, Henry, IL

Three Sisters Park
The Pavilion
17201 N IL Route 29,
Chillicothe, IL

The Illinois Department of Transportation will hold two public meetings to review the project schedule, present alternative alignments, and receive comments for the Illinois Route 29 Study. The study to provide a 65 mph, 4-lane highway improvement extends from IL 6 near Mossville, IL to I 180 near Hennepin, IL.

Who Should Attend?

Communities that may be affected or interested in the project include Peoria, Mossville, Chillicothe, North Hampton, Whitefield, Hopewell, Sparland, Lacon, Henry, Putnam, and Hennepin.

The public is invited to attend either of these meetings any time between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Exhibits will be available explaining the improvements under consideration. Study staff will be available to answer questions and receive comments. The public may also submit written comments. All comments received within ten days following the meetings will be included in the official project record.

The meeting rooms are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Persons needing special accommodations should contact:

Eric Therkildsen

Illinois Department of Transportation District 4
401 Main

Peoria, Illinois 61602

(309) 671-3333

TDD: (309) 671-3450

This advertisement ran in the following newspapers on the noted dates:

- Chillicothe Times Bulletin, 5/28/03 & 6/4/03
- Henry News Republican, 5/28/03 & 6/4/03
- Bureau County Republic, 5/29/03 & 6/5/03
- Lacon Home Journal, 5/29/03 & 6/5/03
- Chillicothe Independent, 5/28/03 & 6/4/03
- Times Newspaper, 5/28/03 & 6/4/03
- News Tribune, 5/27/03 & 5/30/03
- Peoria Star Journal, 5/27/03 & 6/6/03
- Bureau Valley Chief, 5/29/03

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study



If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

WE DON'T NEED ANY
MORE ROADS, UPDATE
THE ROADS WE HAVE
IF ROAD GOES WEST OF
HENRY, HAVE ACCESS TO
WESTERN AVE

Name: ROGER MONIER

Affiliation: RETIRED FARMER

Address: 502 EDWARD ST.

HENRY, IL 61537

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☐ Please add my name to the mailing list.

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
Telephone 309/671-3333

October 10, 2003

BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES & PLANS - PHASE I
Illinois Route 29
Various Counties
Four Lane Study along IL 29 from IL 6 to I-180
Job Nos. P-94-009-01 & P-94-019-02
Catalog No. 032469-00P

Mr. Roger Monier
502 Edward Street
Henry, IL 61537

Dear Mr. Monier:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

Public meetings held in June presented preliminary alignments for the Illinois 29 project and offered an opportunity for the public to discuss the project with Department representatives and provide input about the study. The meetings were well attended and provided the Department with a great deal of information about the transportation needs of the study area.

The Department is continuing with preliminary alignment studies. Through comparisons of engineering and environmental factors, as well as public input, a preferred alignment will be identified which will address the needs of the region. Preliminary measures to minimize harm will be investigated, probable construction costs estimated, and preliminary right of way requirements established during this study. Future public meetings will be held to update the public of the project's progress and to gather additional input.

In the enclosed comment letter, you expressed your opposition to Illinois 29 project. Thank you for taking the time to let the Department know your viewpoint. Your opinion will be included in the project record.

The Department appreciates your interest in this highway project. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Mr. Mike Lewis of this office at (309) 671-3474.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric S. Therkildsen".


By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study 

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

Very interesting proposal. I still am not convinced we have a true need for this highway. The road does not seem to be excessively traveled. I am concerned for the town of Henry Businesses. We have worked hard to encourage business in Henry and now it appears to be by-passing us.

Another concern of mine is how far I may have to travel to get from my home to Henry. I live 5 miles Northwest of Henry on Whitefield Road. Will I have to travel a much longer distance to get to work?

I would like to see the current route 29 repaired and save a lot of our land.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

Name: BEVERLY MALAVOLTI

Affiliation: Self

Address: 1132 Whitefield Road
Henry, IL 61537

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Ms. Beverly Malavolti
1132 Whitefield Road
Henry, IL 61537

Dear Ms. Malavolti:

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CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

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The Illinois Route 29 Study



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It seems the whole reason for this project is to give Peoria what they perceive Bloomington to have: a direct route to Chicago which they perceive will bring jobs.

This, in my opinion, is neither. It is not direct enough for a Chicagoan to take (nor me to drive there). Even if it were, there is no large university to provide a wide variety of skills which Bloomington actually has.

I have lived near an interstate and it provides easy access to criminal elements. I like my town the way it is, & resent having to bail out Peoria - particularly when it will add nothing but ill to Henry.

Name: Robert Bogner

Affiliation: citizen

Address: 910 School St
Henry IL 61537

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Ms. Roberta Bogner
910 School Street
Henry, IL 61537

Dear Ms. Bogner:

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The Illinois Route 29 Study



If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

Please do not make any decisions on the proposed road without personally observing the traffic.

1. Rt 29 need repair now. Has for sometime. But we have no funds.

2. Cannot repair existing road how can we afford a new one? How can we maintain one that is twice as big?

3. My towns will not prosper because traffic will not go thru but around towns. Example Rt 39 - Look at LOSTANT TONICA, WENONA, HUDSON. Example Route 67 AND MONMOUTH, ROSEVILLE.

4. Let's BUILD ROADS where they are needed. Look at the map. Does Peoria to Quincy Ring Abell?

5. The Lady I spoke with said the proposed road was to service our towns. I believe it is to service Peoria. I believe if you make it easier to drive to Peoria to shop you will. Thus the local dollars will be leaving the local stores. The local stores pay our school taxes and sponsor so much in our community. Every business in town lost is a loss to every child thru the donations to Little League, girl scouts etc.

Name: BRIAN HUCKER?

Affiliation: Home owner / Business owner

Address: RRI Box 50 Putnam IL.

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Mr. Brian Hughes
R. R. #1, Box 50
Putnam, IL 61560

Dear Mr. Hughes:

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Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study



If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

My opinion is this is all unnecessary but if it must be done go with the original plan before the environmental do-gooders got involved

I do not want Route 29 made into a 4 lane.

I do not want the Spauld Hill changed

I am 61 years old and with good luck will live 10 more years about the same amount of time it will take to finish the project. I don't want to have fight construction everytime I leave Lacon.

Go back to the original plan or

make it the plan furthered from Rt 29.

Name:

Linda Jensen

Affiliation:

Lacon

Address:

128 N. Main

Lacon, IL 6154

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Ms. Linda Feurer
128 N. Main
Lacon, IL 61540

Dear Ms. Feurer:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM

ILLINOIS ROUTE 29 DESIGN STUDY

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

I think you did a great job laying out alternative routes between points A (Massville) and B (I-180). But who wants to go from Massville to I-180? This is the "Ray Lubbock Highway to Nowhere." Before spending upstream millions dollars on this ill-conceived project, the traffic load should be more than that which simply "meets IDOT's threshold for expanding." There are better ways to spend the State of Illinois' revenue surplus.

Donald Schuster

Name: Donald Schuster

Affiliation: Citizen of Chellier Township

Address: 22617 Crew Lane

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Mr. Donald Schuster
22617 Crew Lane
Chillicothe, IL 61523

Dear Mr. Schuster:

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COMMENT FORM

MAP MAZE

ILLINOIS ROUTE 29 DESIGN STUDY

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RIDICULOUS Ridiculous RIDICULOUS

Illinois route 29 Study Map is RIDICULOUS with all the curves, relocating railroads, re-aligning Illinois 17, Henry City Cemetary, Henry Catholic Cemetary and other cemetaries.

There are bluffs full of coal mines, slough's, swamps, creeks, irrigated farm ground (vegetables raised) under ground wiring, dug wells etc.

Irrigated ground produces as much or more than black ground and vegetables are not government subsidized. We can prove we have gotten \$200 per acre WITHOUT government help.

What happened to going straight north of Rt. 6 to Rt 180 on top of the bluff's? All that ground gets plenty of government money for corn and beans.

As for RAY LAHOOD knowing anything about agriculture and helping local communities with road contract building, he knows NOTHING -- to prove this he couldn't get a contract for his own city, Peoria, for Rt. 74 building work.

Mr opinion is that this study and mapping plans have been a BIG JOKE.

Name: James & Katherine Neuhalfen

Affiliation: Landowner & Farmer

Address: 1150 County Road 1300 E
Henry, Illinois

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Mr. & Mrs. James Neuhalfen
1150 County Road 1300 E
Henry, IL 61537

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Neuhalfen:

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Enclosure(s)

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CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

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Having attended the June 12, 2003 meeting and also having lost 30 or more acres to Route 6 south of Mossville. I have the following comments on the Route 29 upgrade.

#1. We do not need this road.

Am I wrong that since 1970's several million have been spent on studying?

#2. We now have a good four lane road from Pion to Chillescoche. Even with the 55 MPH limit most travel 60 to 65 MPH on this section.

#3. It would be an improvement to have 4 lanes between Chillescoche and Sparland. Sometimes farm implements and farm trucks going to Lacon slow the traffic because of the two lanes.

#4. Down farm land in northern Illinois so I travel 29 to 180 many times. Above Henry there

are no traffic problems.

There is one thing that grieves me and I sincerely believe the laws must be changed and that is our priorities must be changed.

Concerning the value of farmland versus farmland, conservation areas wetlands etc. At the present rate our population is increasing in a few years farmland must be NO! so we should be conserving it now.

I'm 77 years old and I'll probably never ride on this road, but I sure hate to see my grandchildren shop for groceries with empty shelves.

Name: Donald Schiele

Affiliation: Director Peoria County Farm Bureau

Address: 914 W. Evergreen

Chillescoche, IL 61523

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Director of Peoria County Farm Bureau
914 W. Evergreen
Chillicothe, IL 61523

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CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study **29**

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

We do not want money spent on a road to "No Where".

Enough money has been spent on studies that are useless.

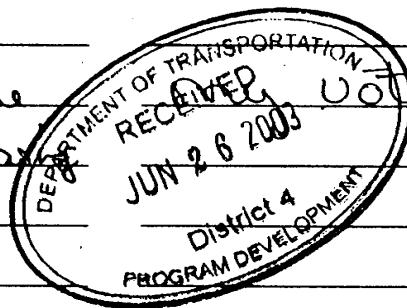
Please put money in fixing up our current roads State, county, Township.

Leave the countryside alone our farm land is disappearing. We little people have the right to our small farms and ranches with being taken over by Government for what you call progress.

The current Rt 29 is fine everyone benefits from the current route. So what

if you can't go 65 MPH. You cannot go 65 on I74 through Peoria. It doesn't hurt anyone to slow down. So, it takes a few more minutes.

Our wildlife has already suffered from what man has done.



Vote is for no Corridor!

Name: Martha Murray

Affiliation:

Address: 20121 Blue Ridge Rd
Chillicothe, IL 61513

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Ms. Martha Murray
20121 Blue Ridge Road
Chillicothe, IL 61523

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Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM

have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study,
complete this comment form.

side from the fact that either option
could not be in my property's best
interest, I feel that this construction is
really needed or wanted by the vast
majority of tax payers. It seems to me
that the trucking companies and businesses
that would benefit from the change, are
a few who will financially benefit.
The rest of us will have another ugly
mess in highway to pay for. I don't
want it if a Federal grant helps pay for it
or not. Any money used are still from
taxes that we pay. I.D.O.T. is always
saying costs because they haven't enough
money to maintain the roads that we
use. ~~They are not going to~~
they spend an exorbitant amount of
money on something that is not really
needed or wanted by the majority of tax
payers, just to make it profitable and

ILLINOIS ROUTE 29 DESIGN STUDY

comment for the ~~study~~.

For a state government ~~that~~
that is always crying about not having
enough money for schools, prisons,
hospitals and so on, to even waste the
money to do these studies on the
feasibility of this highway and the digging
for christian relics in "brown" burial sites, is
an insult to me. This highway would cost
way too much to build. The amount of earth
moving to prepare the road bed, bridges etc. will
be staggering. Maybe we can close some
mental hospitals? OOPS! We already did that.
In closing: I don't want to pay to have this
road built ~~or~~ or to have it maintained in the
future.

Name: John Eckard

Affiliation:

Address: P.O. BOX 97 PUTNAM IL. 61560

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
Telephone 309/671-3333

October 10, 2003

BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STUDIES & PLANS - PHASE I

Illinois Route 29
Various Counties
Four Lane Study along IL 29 from IL 6 to I-180
Job Nos. P-94-009-01 & P-94-019-02
Catalog No. 032469-00P

Mr. John Eckard
P. O. Box 97
Putnam, IL 61560

Dear Mr. Eckard:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

Public meetings held in June presented preliminary alignments for the Illinois 29 project and offered an opportunity for the public to discuss the project with Department representatives and provide input about the study. The meetings were well attended and provided the Department with a great deal of information about the transportation needs of the study area.

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In the enclosed comment letter, you expressed your opposition to Illinois 29 project. Thank you for taking the time to let the Department know your viewpoint. Your opinion will be included in the project record.

The Department appreciates your interest in this highway project. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Mr. Mike Lewis of this office at (309) 671-3474.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric S. Therkildsen".

By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

I am opposed to any road, but especially any road on the bluff that does not follow Rt. 29 directly for the following reason:

6 - environmental impact.

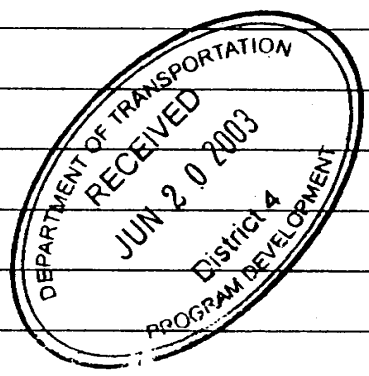
1 - Taking valuable farm land

2 - loss of Steuben Township tax revenue.

3 - devaluation of my property value

4 - Making it more difficult for emergency and farm vehicles to operate

5 - any road bypassing the towns would be harmful to their economies



Name: ROBERT E. WARD

Affiliation:

Address: 432 COUNTY RD. 850 E
SPARLAND, IL. 61565

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.
☒ Please add my name to the mailing list.
☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



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401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
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October 10, 2003

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STUDIES & PLANS - PHASE I
Illinois Route 29
Various Counties
Four Lane Study along IL 29 from IL 6 to I-180
Job Nos. P-94-009-01 & P-94-019-02
Catalog No. 032469-00P

Mr. Robert Ward
432 County Road 850 E
Spartanburg, IL 61565

Dear Mr. Ward:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

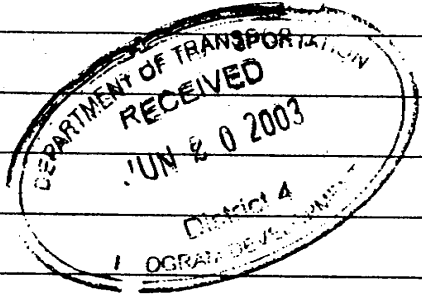
COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

I'm opposed to the widening of Rt. 29 and the alternative route which follows Hardwick's Road.

Should the alternative route be selected, it will take a large amount of farmland which will be a large loss of revenue.

I feel it will re-direct the water flow which will be harmful to the crops.



Name: Cherry Hard
Affiliation: _____
Address: 432 Liberty Rd - 853 East
Spokane, ID 83205

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.
☒ Please add my name to the mailing list.
☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



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Ms. Terry Ward
432 County Road 850 E
Spartanburg, IL 61565

Dear Ms. Ward:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM

ILLINOIS ROUTE 29 DESIGN STUDY

I have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study,
please complete this comment form.

We vote "NO" to the present
(recent) Illinois Route 29 Design
Study - Preliminary Alignments
mailed to US (5/29/03).

If you proceed with this, it
would make ghost towns out
of Chillicothe, Sparland, Lacombe,
& Henry!!

We vote to expand the existing
Route 29 from Chillicothe to
Tennepin to 4-Lane. Put
stop lights (already there)
at Sparland & Henry.

Why do you always have to
take new roads - destroying
good property?

I will be at the meeting
to vote NO!

Name: Steve & Dixie Neuhalfen

Affiliation:

Address: 202 E. Meadow View Ct
Edelstein, IL 61526

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



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Catalog No. 032469-00P

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Neuhalphen
202 E. Meadow View Court
Edelstein, IL 61526

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Neuhalphen:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study



If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE PRICE,
LAND AND NEED I DON'T FEEL
THE ROAD IS NEEDED -

BUT IF THEY REALLY WANT
A BETTER HIGHWAY I FEEL
THEY SHOULD IMPROVE THE
ALREADY PRESENT HIGHWAYS

I FEEL THE LIVES + LAND
DISRUPTED IS NOT WORTH
THE COST + EFFORT

Virgil D. Swanson

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

VIRGIL D. SWANSON
4110 E CLOVERDALE RD.
CHILlicothe, IL 61523-9585

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☒ Please add my name to the mailing list.

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
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October 10, 2003

BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STUDIES & PLANS - PHASE I

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Catalog No. 032469-00P

Mr. Virgil Swanson
4110 E. Cloverdale Road
Chillicothe, IL 61523

Dear Mr. Swanson:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study 

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

We do not feel a great^{need} for this project. This is not a direct access to Chicago.

But if the project is approved, we would prefer using the existing Route 29 corridor, not eliminating valuable farmland and displacing homes. The routes proposed also bypass the cities along the way and we do not see a large benefit to that - rather it would be a detriment to the already struggling towns.

Name: Dennis & Janet Reed

Affiliation: _____

Address: 1120 CR 930E

Henry, IL 61537

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☒ Please add my name to the mailing list.

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



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Various Counties

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1120 CR 930 E
Henry, IL 61537

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Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

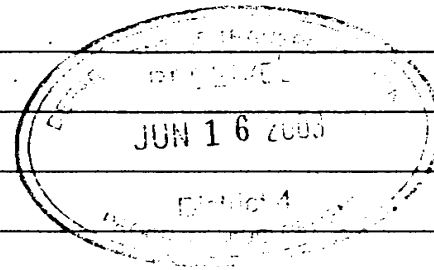
cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study 

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

The Road you proposed runs north; Chicago is east you have several routes that run east RT 17 - Rt-116 - I 74 to 55 if you are serious about a road you should be looking at something going east not north if I was to go to Chicago, I would drive north and make a square corner to get there, I would use one of the present routes and go east.



Name: Leonard Carol

Affiliation:

Address: 417 N. 4th

Chillicothe, Ill 61523

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☐ Please add my name to the mailing list.

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



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Catalog No. 032469-00P

Mr. Leonard Carrol
417 N. 4th
Chillicothe, IL 61523

Dear Mr. Carrol:

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

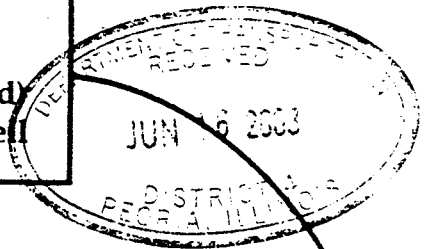
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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

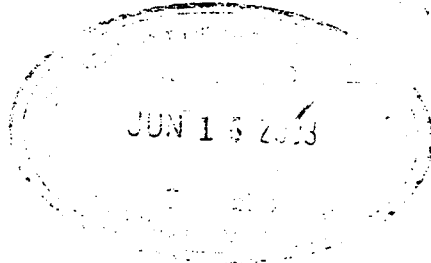
David P. Deffenbaugh

449 County Road 850 E (Hardscrabble Road)
Sparland, IL 61565-9386 ~ (309) 361-0445 Cell



ERIC THERKILDSEN, P.E.,
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER
Division of Highways/District 4
Illinois Department of Transportation
401 Main Street
Peoria, IL 61602

June 13, 2003



Dear Mr. Therkildsen,

The reason I am writing this letter on something other than the form you supplied is, and I must admit, I was quite angry when I wrote it, because when I finished writing it and read it back to myself, I realized I was taking my anger out on someone who is only trying to do their job and has no real say as to whether there will be a highway or not. I am sure that you must realize that when people feel that their property is in jeopardy, of course this would anger property owners.

I have to go to Chicago on an average of 3 to 4 times a year to medical specialists. I take Route 29 to I-80 to I-57 and I-94 up to Chicago. Or sometimes I take Route 17 to I-39 and up and catch I-80. I never have any problems making my appointment because of roadways, so I really can't see why this highway is needed.

I can, however, see many, many reasons why this highway should not be built, the lack of money on the States part being the most major of the many reasons. But, since the politicians of this State have got their minds made up that we will have this highway come hell or high water, I have come to accept the fact that there will be a highway, somewhere.

I have personally looked at all the options by actually driving all the corridors in my area (from Route 6 to Henry) as much as possible, since some of the corridors are unaccessable. I find, and many people agree with me, that the most logical place for this highway is to follow the existing Route 29. And, by turning it into a four lane highway with turn lanes, rather than turning it into an interstate with median strips and the like. I don't know if it would save anything on costs or not, because I haven't a clue of the cost of building a four lane highway verses and interstate.

Some of the reasons I do not want to see a highway built anywhere other than Route 29, is the ruin and waste of many acres of farm lands and wood lands, the loss of homes and property of hundreds of people along the proposed corridors and the loss of natural habitat for wildlife, of which there is already so few.

I said earlier that I have drove the corridors. Though I have driven north of Henry on occassions I have not studied the area for this highway as I did for my area, so I don't know what problems lie ahead up north of Henry.

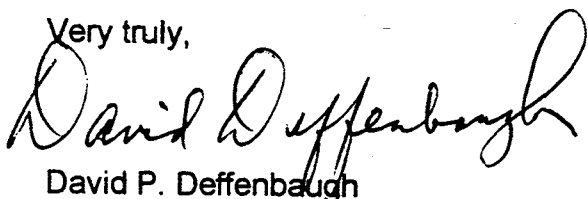
I do admit that at times Route 29 does become somewhat congested in those areas where it is two lanes. I have always thought that those areas should be made into four lanes. But I have never seen the need for an interstate, since we already have I-80 to the north, I-39 to the east and I-74 to the south.

Just for fun, I put my travel maps program into my computer, it's an old program from 1998, but I still used it. But, even back in 1998, Illinois had more Interstate highways than any state in the lower 48 states with 14 Interstates. Texas and Pennsylvania came in second with 10, and New York was 3rd with 9. It seems strange to me that Illinois would need 14 Interstates and now we want to build another, when the largest states in the U.S. don't even have that many Interstates. I wonder what makes Illinois so unique?

I believe we need to use the money more wisely than to build another Interstate. Routes 29, 40, 17 and 26 could use some attention, and I am sure there are many other highways throughout Illinois that need work. But, I must tell you, I think Illinois does have some better highways than some of the other states I have driven in. But there is still room for improvement and I'm not talking about building another highway, I'm talking about better maintaining the highways we already have. At the base of Hardscrabble Road where it intersects with Route 29, there is usually a hole big enough to lose a Volkswagen in.

Well anyway, you asked for my opinions and comments, so there they are. I hope that compiled with the opinions of other people they will be of some help.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Deffenbaugh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David P. Deffenbaugh

Interstate Highways In The Continental United States - 1998
Compiled From Swift's Travel Maps U.S.A.
(Not In Alphabetical Order)

STATE	NUMBER OF INTERSTATES	NAMES OF INTERSTATES
WASHINGTON	5	I-90, I-5, I-405, I-82, I-182
OREGON	3	I-5, I-82, I-84
IDAHO	4	I-84, I-15, I-90, I-86
MONTANA	4	I-15, I-315, I-90, I-94
WYOMING	3	I-90, I-25, I-80
CALIFORNIA	6	I-5, I-80, I-15, I-10, I-8, I-40
NEVADA	2	I-80, I-15
UTAH	4	I-84, I-70, I-15, I-80
ARIZONA	4	I-10, I-8, I-19, I-40
NEW MEXICO	3	I-25, I-40, I-10
COLORADO	3	I-70, I-76, I-25
TEXAS	10	I-27, I-20, I-40, I-44, I-10, I-35, I-37, I-45, I-35E, I-30
OKLAHOMA	3	I-44, I-35, I-40
KANSAS	4	I-70, I-135, I-335, I-35
NEBRASKA	3	I-80, I-76, I-29
SOUTH DAKOTA	2	I-90, I-29
NORTH DAKOTA	2	I-94, I-29
MINNESOTA	3	I-94, I-35, I-90
IOWA	3	I-29, I-80, I-35
MISSOURI	4	I-70, I-55, I-44, I-35
ARKANSAS	3	I-30, I-40, I-55
LOUISIANA	6	I-55, I-110, I-49, I-20, I-10, I-12
MISSISSIPPI	4	I-55, I-10, I-20, I-59
WISCONSIN	3	I-94, I-43, I-93
ILLINOIS	14	I-94, I-57, I-39, I-80, I-55, I-180, I-74, I-64, I-24, I-90, I-88, I-155, I-72, I-70
OHIO	8	I-75, I-270, I-77, I-80, I-71, I-70, I-74, I-275
INDIANA	6	I-69, I-465, I-70, I-65, I-74, I-164
MICHIGAN	6	I-75, I-69, I-96, I-94, I-196, I-80
KENTUCKY	4	I-24, I-64, I-65, I-75
TENNESSEE	5	I-155, I-181, I-81, I-65, I-40
ALABAMA	4	I-65, I-85, I-59, I-10
FLORIDA	4	I-95, I-75, I-4, I-10
GEORGIA	6	I-520, I-20, I-85, I-16, I-75, I-985
SOUTH CAROLINA	5	I-26, I-85, I-77, I-95, I-20
NORTH CAROLINA	5	I-40, I-77, I-585, I-85, I-95
VIRGINIA	8	I-81, I-77, I-85, I-95, I-64, I-66, I-270, I-83
WEST VIRGINIA	5	I-79, I-77, I-64, I-68, I-70
DELEWARE	4	I-68, I-66, I-270, I-83
NEW JERSEY	4	I-495, I-80, I-78, I-76
MARYLAND	3	I-83, I-270, I-95
PENNSYLVANIA	10	I-79, I-90, I-80, I-180, I-86, I-81, I-84, I-78, I-83, I-195
MASSACHUSETTS	7	I-90, I-91, I-84, I-190, I-495, I-95, I-93

Interstate Highways In The Continental United States - 1998
Compiled From Swift's Travel Maps U.S.A.
(Not In Alphabetical Order)

STATE	NUMBER OF INTERSTATES	NAMES OF INTERSTATES
CONNECTICUT	5	I-84, I-91, I-395, I-384, I-95
RHODE ISLAND	2	I-95, I-295
NEW YORK	9	I-390, I-81, I-90, I-88, I-587, I-790, I-587, I-87, I-84
VERMONT	2	I-89, I-91
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2	I-93, I-89
MAINE	2	I-95, I-395



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
Telephone 309/671-3333

October 10, 2003

BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STUDIES & PLANS - PHASE I

Illinois Route 29
Various Counties
Four Lane Study along IL 29 from IL 6 to I-180
Job Nos. P-94-009-01 & P-94-019-02
Catalog No. 032469-00P

Mr. David Deffenbaugh
449 County Road 850 E
Sparland, IL 61565

Dear Mr. Deffenbaugh:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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The Department appreciates your interest in this highway project. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Mr. Mike Lewis of this office at (309) 671-3474.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric S. Therkildsen".

By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

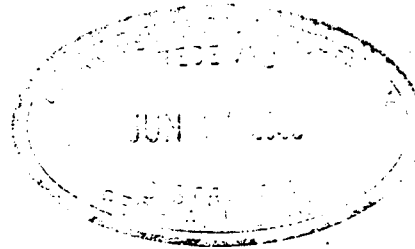
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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

201 E. Lake Shore Drive
Edelstein, IL. 61526
June 15, 2003

Eric Therkildsen
Div. of Highways, Dist. 4
Ill. Dept. of Transportation
401 Main St.
Peoria, IL. 61602



Re: The Illinois Route 29 Study

Dear Mr. Therkildsen:

We are writing in regard to the Illinois Route 29 Study. We are pleased that the so called corridor A represented by the blue lines on your project maps is off the table. The environmental impact of corridor A would be irreversible. The loss of wildlife habitat, farmland, and historical trails and homes would be too great a price to pay for that highway. At a time when people are fundraising to mark the old Peoria/Galena trail, it is ironic that IDOT is thinking of obliterating it.

However, we still have grave concerns about the proposed highway. It is our understanding that some leaders in Peoria want an interstate highway connection to Chicago. This is not the most efficient way to achieve that aim. In fact, according to Dick Stafford, Project Manager for CH2M Hill, Inc., the proposed route would not be a faster route to Chicago. Instead, he said the purpose of this road was to address safety issues in three areas and to provide for increased traffic in the future. However, the road itself would create the increased traffic. In addition, if there are only possible safety issues in three areas, why spend millions of dollars to redesign a whole road instead of just dealing with those three small areas? Furthermore, increased traffic could actually lead to increased, not fewer, safety issues. This road has a very expensive price tag, and at a time when the state is experiencing a fiscal crisis, we cannot see justification for a road that would not meet all the needs of the area. We understand that at least one city council has voted to oppose the proposal. In addition, valuable farm land, wildlife habitat, and wetlands would be destroyed by the proposed alteration of Route 29, and history shows us that once land is paved, it never returns to its original state. Instead, governmental bodies are left with more roads to maintain, and citizens are left with less farmland and wilderness areas and higher taxes.

Furthermore, the proposal does not address the need for a bridge across the river in the Mossville or Chillicothe area. What happened to extending the Route 6 beltway and connecting to the interstate across the river? While we don't see the need for this, apparently some business leaders do. Are we then going to be expected to pay for two interstate connections and lose double the farmland and wildlife habitat? That is what we foresee, and we are incredulous about the possible waste of land and money. This is not good government.

Please add us to your mailing list to receive informational newsletters about any action or public meetings about the future of Route 29.

Sincerely,

John & Mary Howard

John and Mary Howard
201 E. Lake Shore Drive
Edelstein, IL 61526



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
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Mr. & Mrs. John Howard
201 E. Lake Shore Drive
Edelstein, IL 61526

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Howard:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric S. Therkildsen".

By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

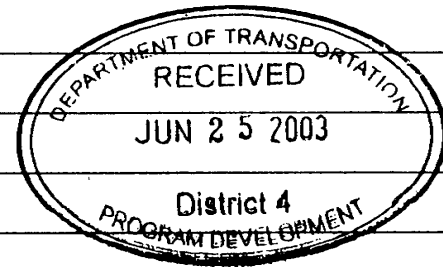
COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study **29**

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

When the state is broke and can't pay their bills, we don't need Route 29 widened. This is a beautiful drive that most people enjoy. To ruin all the natural is a tragedy. The countryside in the fall with all the colors is breathtaking. My family with our children & grandchildren travel this road to the family farm near Henry which also will be destroyed, because the road runs thru it. People live in these rural areas because they like peace & quiet of small towns and not living next to a speedway. The traffic north from Henry is very sparse sometimes I might see one or two cars driving I 180

to I 80. I am against changing Route 29 to a super four lane road, just so a few others can drive fast. As Jerry Klein wrote a pleasant alternative to interstate travel is needed.



Name: Marge Villiger Mattern
Affiliation: Villiger Farms Henry
Address: 9308 W. Grimm Ln
Edwards IL 61528

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.
☒ Please add my name to the mailing list.
☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.

A pleasant alternative to interstate travel

Curiosity finally got the better of us, and on a recent trip homeward from St. Louis we pulled off the expressway at Mt. Olive to see at last what this "Mother Jones Monument" was all about. I estimate we have passed this way at least a hundred times over the years and on seeing the sign wondered to ourselves, "Who is Mother Jones anyway?"

To satisfy whatever interest you might have, Mother Jones was a labor heroine who, after the death of her husband and four children in 1867, worked untiringly for the cause of the working man. She was lauded by Clarence Darrow as one of the most forceful and picturesque friends of American labor. She died in 1930 and lies in Union Miners Cemetery



Jerry Klein

amid the victims of the Virden riot of July 12, 1898, in which 10 miners and six guards were killed. Unfortunately, little information about Mother Jones (born Mary Harris in Cork, Ireland, in 1830) is apparent in the cemetery.

But having abandoned the interstate, we decided to meander for a while along this stretch of Historic Route 66, which is relatively well maintained and virtually deserted. After our time on I-55, where trucks passing one another at 70 miles per hour and most cars driving at 80 created a speedway mentality like that of the old Mille Miglia, this quiet road was a startling contrast. It was almost as if we had taken a time-trip back into the 1950s, for here and there were remains of quaint, art-deco motels, all abandoned, and former gas stations that at one time sported two gravity-fed, glass-top pumps, one for ethyl and the other for regular.

Now and then we spotted faded billboards that could no longer be read but might have been advertisements for Clabber Girl Baking Powder or Mail Pouch Tobacco. And off in the distance we could see the glint of cars and trucks pounding along madly.

So overwhelming, if not menacing, has truck traffic become that I suspect we might reach the day when our four-lane limited-access roadways could be given over wholly to trucks. Passenger cars will be relegated to two-lane 1930s-type roads with occasional 45-mile-per-hour curves and speed limits in every little town. It might be safer.

It also would bring back some measure of adventure to being on the road again and some appreciation of the roadside wonders we seem to have lost. You will never see a restaurant in the shape of a hamburger bun along a superhighway, or a statue of Superman, or a town like Oatman, Ariz., where Clark Gable and Jean Harlow spent their honeymoon and where burros wander along this stretch of Route 66.

The only adventure along our sophisticated highway system is the white-knuckled, high-speed quest for survival and arrival. It surely isn't fun. No dawdling or gawking allowed. Put your attention in cruise control and go. And keep your eyes on the road.

But so appealing was our off-the-beaten-path travel that once we lost old Route 66 and had to return to I-55, we sought out Route 29 just north of Springfield and were back again to two lanes and no traffic. We slowed down near Greenview to view the still impressive Marbold Mansion and we watched the soft June dusk fall across the Illinois prairie.

So not as fast as I-55, but not as harrowing either. A long trip this way would be impractical. But there are things to be seen out there away from the madding crowd. Thanks to Mother Jones for reminding us that there is another way.

Jerry Klein is a columnist with the Journal Star.



Illinois Department of Transportation

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Catalog No. 032469-00P

Ms. Marge Villiger Mattern
9308 W. Grimm Lane
Edwards, IL 61528

Dear Ms. Mattern:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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The Department appreciates your interest in this highway project. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Mr. Mike Lewis of this office at (309) 671-3474.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric S. Therkildsen".

By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

The Illinois Route 29 Study



If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

Regarding "Shady Bluff Farm" RR1 $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles North of Putnam, IL. This farm is a Centennial Farm owned by the Winslip families since 1868. Five generations 135 years.

At one study we were in Corridor B. On the west hilltop. Conchita Ranch would just have a small corner taken. There would not be the problem of land - fill build up as there would be following Rt 29 now. We are low here & subject to flooding. When Illinois River rises many times Senaschwin Lake comes up to our Corn Creek & goes over our lane. On top of hill you wouldn't have a problem of build up to find.

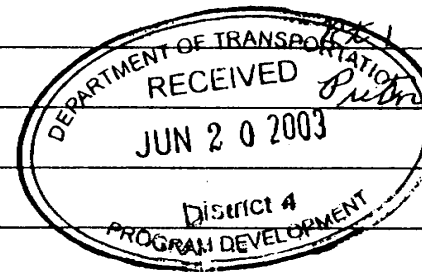
The present Rt 29 for 2-3 miles from 180 south needs to be resurfaced. You can hear traffic 1 mile coming over the rough seams. Bump bump your survey looks very simple flattened out on paper, but when you take property for the 3rd time in our ownership, that is too much! I have 9 grandchildren who love to come to Shady Bluff Farm.

Traffic could get to Chicago easy on the four lanes out of Peoria, already developed.

Please reconsider. This problem is our income and doesn't have to be our family for the 3rd time. 1920 & again in 1966. Rt 29 came thru our property.

Thank you to reconsider another route

Mrs Wayne Winslip (Berna)



RR1 Box 8

Putnam, IL. 61560

Name: "Shady Bluff Farm"

Affiliation: Owned & operated by Winslip Families

Address: since 1868 5 generations now 135 years.

RR1 Box 8 Putnam, IL. 61560 Berna Winslip

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☒ Please add my name to the mailing list.

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Catalog No. 032469-00P

Mrs. Wayne Winship
Shady Bluff Farm
R. R. #1, Box 8
Putnam, IL 61560

Dear Mrs. Winship:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Illinois 29 project from Illinois 6 near Mossville to Interstate 180 near Hennepin. A copy of your comment letter is enclosed for your reference.

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Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

cc: Project File (M. Lewis)
CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

COMMENT FORM - June 2003 Public Information Meetings

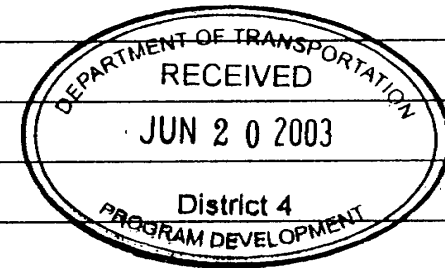
The Illinois Route 29 Study 

If you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

Sirs:

I attended the open house at Henry High School on June 11, 2003 and I oppose the preliminary alignment H3 & H4, because these two proposals cut through and destroy our family farming operation which include two homes, two barns a corn crib, eight grain storage bins, two machine storage buildings with maintenance repair shops, two center pivot irrigation systems with under ground pipes, an airplane hangar and a 2000 foot state certified airstrip. For the past 15 years we have been growing specialty crops (seed corn, sweet corn & green beans) that requires this type of soil and irrigation. This has required a large capital investment in machinery, wells and irrigation equipment to meet the demands of the companies we grow for. Proposals H3 and H4 will turn a profitable operation into one of disaster and economic loss for ourselves and several family members. With the continued investment in capital expenditures we need to know as possible if an alternative route could be used leaving our farm in tack. Your current proposals leaves our farming operation and family members in a very extreme stressful situation.

The building of this highway will have no benefits for the city of Henry. Just look at what I 39 did to all the cities along the way. Every one of the towns now have major economic lost do to the building of I 39. For that reason I totally oppose the project.



Name: Kenneth J. Villiger

Affiliation: Co-operator/co-owner

Address: 207 Conrad St.

Henry, IL 61537

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☒ Please add my name to the mailing list.

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.



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Mr. Kenneth Villiger
207 Conrad Street
Henry, IL 61537

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Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

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By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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Enclosure(s)

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CH2M Hill (Attn: Mr. Jim Jodie)

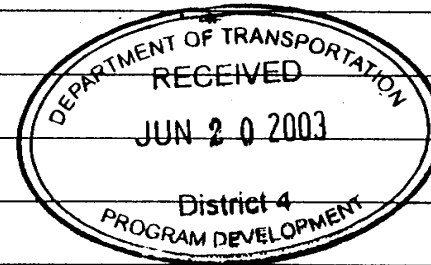
COMMENT FORM

ILLINOIS ROUTE 29 DESIGN STUDY

you have questions, comments, or opinions related to this study, please complete this comment form.

WE DON'T NEED THIS ROAD!
THIS ROUTE TAKES OUT
IRRIGATED FARM GROUND,
SOME WETLANDS, TIMBER.
IT SEEMS THIS IS MOSTLY A
POLITICAL ROAD.
THE IMPACT ON THE SMALL
TOWNS ALONG THE WAY WILL
BE BAD.
THE IMPACT ON THE WILDLIFE
WILL BE BAD.
THE IMPACT ON LANDOWNERS &
HOMEOWNERS WILL BE BAD.
IT APPEARS TO ME THE ONLY
ADVANTAGE TO THIS ROAD WILL
BE TO THE BUILDERS AND THE
DEVELOPERS WHO WILL TAKE
WHAT'S LEFT OF THE FRACTURED
FARMS AND MAKE SUBDIVISIONS.

WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING
TO COME FROM?



Name: Eldon J. Hagaman
Affiliation: LANDOWNER
Address: 1273 Co. Rd. 1150 N.
Henry, Ill. 61537

Please fold, tape, and mail. No envelope or postage is necessary.

☒ Please ~~remove~~ my name from the mailing list.

ADD